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4 OF 6
STORMBREAKER™
THE SAGA OF BETA RAY BILL™
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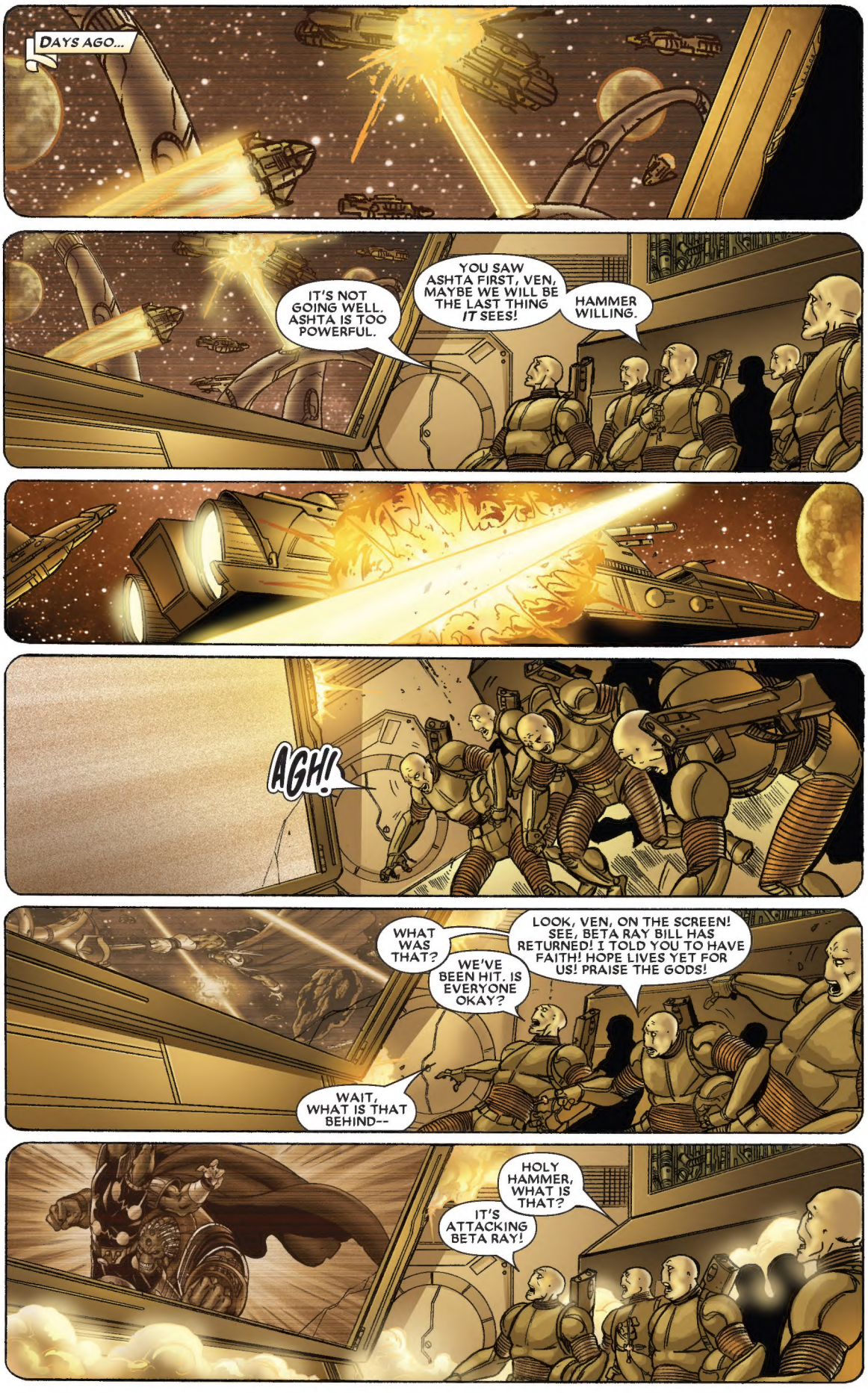
DAYS AGO...
IT'S NOT GOING WELL. ASHTA IS TOO POWERFUL.
YOU SAW ASHTA FIRST, VEN, MAYBE WE WILL BE THE LAST THING IT SEES!
HAMMER WILLING.
AGH!
WHAT WAS THAT?
WE'VE BEEN HIT. IS EVERYONE OKAY?
LOOK, VEN, ON THE SCREEN! SEE, BETA RAY BILL HAS RETURNED! I TOLD YOU TO HAVE FAITH! HOPE LIVES YET FOR US! PRAISE THE GODS!
WAIT, WHAT IS THAT BEHIND--
HOLY HAMMER, WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S ATTACKING BETA RAY!

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BETA RAY BILL, DEFENDER OF THE KORBINITE RACE AND LAST SURVIVOR OF RAGNAROK, WAS UNABLE TO STOP GALACTUS FROM DEVOURING HIS PEOPLE'S ADOPTED HOME PLANET. NOW, BOTH HE AND STARDUST, THE HERALD OF GALACTUS, LIE UNCONSCIOUS AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE WHICH ROCKED THE HEAVENS AND SHOOK THE VERY FIRMAMENT OF THE UNIVERSE. IN A FIT OF DESPERATION, STARDUST OPENED A PORTAL INTO A COSMIC HELL, AND UNLEASHED AN EVIL SO GREAT AND SO POWERFUL THAT IT WAS ABLE TO STRIKE DOWN BOTH BILL AND STARDUST WITH EASE.
I AM ASTEROTH! I WAS BORN FROM THE CHAOS OF CREATION! I AM THE BLOOD AND TEARS OF THE UNIVERSE!
WHO HAS CALLED ME FROM THE DARK NOTHINGNESS? WHO DO I HAVE TO THANK FOR MY FREEDOM?
WAS IT THESE? THESE TWO PITIFUL SPECKS? NO MATTER... I HUNGER! I SHALL GO FEED AND LEAVE CHAOS IN MY WAKE! SOON EVERY CREATURE IN THIS REALM WILL TREMBLE AT MY NAME...

ASTEROTH!

ASTEROTH

I HAVE MISSED THIS REALM OF ORDER. IT IS SO RICH IN SUSTENANCE! ONCE I HAVE CONSUMED ALL THE ORDER IN THIS GALAXY, IT WILL BE REMADE TO MY LIKING! SOON CHAOS WILL OVERCOME THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE!

WITH THE POWER OF THIS UNIVERSE FUELING ME, I WILL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT. IT WILL BE AN ETERNITY OF DESTRUCTION, AN ORGY OF CHAOS! SOON ALL THE UNIVERSES, MULTIVERSES AND MEGAVERSES WILL BE MINE!

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WHAT ARE YOU, SMALL THING? YOU ARE NEITHER BEAST NOR MACHINE. I UNDERSTAND THE FABRIC OF TIME AND SPACE, AND YET YOU SMALL BEINGS CONTINUE TO VEX AND SURPRISE ME. TO STAND AGAINST SUCH ODDS... YOU CAUSE SUCH IRRITATION--STILL, I AM IMPRESSED.
BREATHE DEEP, THING OF THE KORBINITES. YOU ARE MINE NOW...AND I NEED YOU FOR A TASK...

AWAKEN, KORBINITE.

DON'T... GIVE UP NOW...

ENOUGH!

AAAAHHGGH!

NO! KORBINITE, LISTEN TO ME!

DIE! JUST DIE! DAMN YOU!!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH...

THOOM

...OF YOU...

BAM!

...AND YOUR KIND!!

CRACK!

KILLERS! DESTROYERS! EGO-MANIACS!

THOOM! CRAKA-BAM! BOOM!

I BEG YOU...

HUMBLY I BEG OF YOU, LISTEN TO ME! THAT CREATURE MUST BE STOPPED OR EVEN THE MEMORY OF YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE NO MORE!

GUUNGH MRUMPH!

"HEAR ME OUT, KORBINITE. WHEN I OPENED THAT PORTAL, I HAD HOPED TO TRAP YOU IN A COSMIC HELL. A PLACE OF DARK EMPTINESS, FROM WHICH NOTHING CAN ESCAPE. BUT I UNDERESTIMATED YOU. MY GAMBLE DID NOT PAY OFF-- YOU WERE TOO STRONG.

GAAAHANGA! WUTA HAHGH DARRUNN!!!!

"WE UNLEASHED SOMETHING, A SMALL FRAGMENT OF THE BEING KNOWN AS ASTEROTH. AN ENTITY OF PURE EVIL WHO THRIVES ON DESTRUCTION AND FEEDS ON ORDER AND LIFE. SHE WILL REDUCE EVERYTHING TO CHAOS.

"SHE WILL WREAK HAVOC AND BRING FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF ALL THINGS...

"...BEFORE SHE DESTROYS EVERYTHING...

GUH?

"...UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR LIFE...

"...BUT TO EMBRACE DEATH!

"WE ONLY LET A SMALL FRACTION OF ASTEROTH FREE. SHE WILL NEED TO FEED...AND HER POWER WILL GROW.

"SHE WILL FEED ON PLANETS FIRST...
"THEN WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEMS...
"THEN WHOLE GALAXIES...
"THEN SHE WILL DEVOUR THIS UNIVERSE!"

NOW THERE IS NO TIME. NO TIME FOR EGO, NO TIME TO GET HELP. YOU AND I, KORBINITE, ARE ALL THAT STAND BETWEEN ASTEROTH AND THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING.
BESIDES, YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME. I AM A COSMIC ENTITY. NO PHYSICAL FORCE YOU CAN DELIVER WILL MAKE ME MORE THAN PAUSE. YOU CANNOT DESTROY THIS BODY--JUST AS I CANNOT STOP ASTEROTH ON MY OWN.
WITHOUT YOUR HELP SHE WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING.
WE MUST STOP HER.
HOW IS THIS MONSTER DIFFERENT THAN YOUR MASTER?
MY MASTER, GALACTUS, HAS BECOME A NATURAL PART OF THIS UNIVERSE. HE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE COSMIC EBB AND FLOW. HE IS ESSENTIAL IN THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH, OF CREATION AND DESTRUCTION.
SEE FOR YOURSELF, THEN! THIS PLANET IS YOUNG, FULL OF LIFE AND POTENTIAL--SHE WILL CONSUME IT!
MAYBE NOW, BEFORE HER POWER IS TOO GREAT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO STOP HER. YOU AND I TOGETHER...
I LOATHE TO DEAL WITH YOU, MURDERER, BUT IT SEEMS I HAVE NO CHOICE. ONCE WE HAVE DEALT WITH THIS MONSTER I WILL GIVE YOU NO QUARTER. THERE WILL NEVER BE PEACE BETWEEN US.

WHAT?!

SORRY TO INTERRUPT--

HHHHKKKKK
KORBINITE, TAKE COVER! I DID NOT WANT TO DO THIS, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE! IT HAS BEEN AN...HONOR TO...BATTLE WITH YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
A BLACK HOLE!

STAY OUT OF THE EVENT HORIZON--IF YOU ARE PULLED INTO IT, THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
ASTEROTH DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND IT THOUGH!
HA HA HA, THAT I DON'T, LITTLE CREATURE.
THINKING YOU'LL BE NEEDING HELP, I AM.
SHOW YOU SOMETHING OF THE COSMOS, I WILL!
UH-OH...

KRAKA-THOOOM!!!

KORBINITE! I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT ASTEROTH IS TWISTING THE GRAVITY FROM THE BLACK HOLE! FIGHT, KORBINITE, FIGHT HARDER THAN YOU'VE EVER FOUGHT BEFORE!

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING?

AGH! I CAN'T RESIST IT!
NO! IT'S TOO LATE! WE'RE BEING PULLED INTO THE EVENT HORIZON. WE'LL BE CRUSHED INTO SUBATOMIC DUST!
AHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!
TO BE CONTINUED...